

SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION**Finding Regarding the Social Insurance System of Albania**

AGENCY: Social Security Administration.
ACTION: Notice of finding regarding the Social Insurance System of Albania.

Finding

Section 202(t)(1) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 402(t)(1)) prohibits payment of monthly benefits to any individual who is not a United States citizen or national for any month after he or she has been outside the United States for 6 consecutive months, and prior to the first month thereafter for all of which, the individual has been in the United States. This prohibition does not apply to such an individual where one of the exceptions described in sections 202(t)(2) through 202(t)(5) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 402(t)(2)–(5)) affects his or her case.

Section 202(t)(2) of the Social Security Act provides that, subject to certain residency requirements of section 202(t)(11), the prohibition against payment shall not apply to any individual who is a citizen of a country which the Commissioner of Social Security finds has in effect a social insurance system which is of general application in such country and which:

- (a) Pays periodic benefits, or the actuarial equivalent thereof, on account of old age, retirement, or death; and
- (b) Permits individuals who are United States citizens but not citizens of that country and who qualify for such benefits to receive those benefits, or the actuarial equivalent thereof, while outside the foreign country regardless of the duration of the absence.

The Commissioner of Social Security has delegated the authority to make such a finding to the Associate Commissioner for International Policy. Under that authority, the Associate Commissioner for International Policy has approved a finding that Albania, as of October 1, 1993, has a social insurance system of general application which:

- (a) Pays periodic benefits, or the actuarial equivalent thereof, on account of old age, retirement, or death; and
- (b) Permits United States citizens who are not citizens of Albania and who qualify for the relevant benefits to receive those benefits, or their actuarial equivalent, while outside of Albania, regardless of the duration of the absence of these individuals from Albania.

Accordingly, it is hereby determined and found that Albania has in effect, as of October 1, 1993, a social insurance system which meets the requirements of

section 202(t)(2) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 402(t)(2)).

This is our first finding under section 202(t) of the Social Security Act for Albania. For the period September 7, 1948 through September 29, 1992, U.S. Treasury Department regulations prohibited sending U.S. Government checks (including U.S. Social Security checks) to, or on behalf of, individuals in Albania. These restrictions were lifted on September 30, 1992.

However, prior to October 1, 1993, the date that the People's Assembly Law on Social Insurance in the Albanian Republic, Act No. 7703, entered into force, there was no provision for the payment of benefits to U.S. citizens residing outside Albania as required under section 202(t)(2)(B) of the Social Security Act. Consequently, payment of benefits to Albanian citizens under the social insurance exception was not possible until the new law went into effect.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Donna Powers, Room 1104, West High Rise Building, P.O. Box 17741, 6401 Security Boulevard, Baltimore, MD 21235, (410) 965-3568.

(Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance: Program Nos. 96.001 Social Security—Disability Insurance; 96.002 Social Security—Retirement Insurance; 96.004 Social Security—Survivors Insurance)

Dated: February 5, 1998

James A. Kissko,

Associate Commissioner for International Policy.

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TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY**Sunshine Act Meeting**

AGENCY HOLDING THE MEETING: Tennessee Valley Authority (Meeting No. 1501).

TIME AND DATE: 9 a.m. (CST), February 20, 1998.

PLACE: Winston County Courthouse, 2d Floor Courtroom, 113 Main Street, Louisville, Mississippi.

STATUS: Open.

Agenda

Approval of minutes of meeting held on January 28, 1998.

New Business**C—Energy**

C1. Delegation of authority to the Vice President of Fuel Supply and Engineering to award a contract for the sale of up to 100,000 tons per year of fly ash from Bull Run Fossil Plant to Babb

Cellular Concrete (BBC), LLC, and approval of a grant of an industrial term easement to BCC affecting approximately 10 acres of the Bull Run site for construction and operation of an autoclaved cellular concrete plant (Tract No. XBRSP-3IE).

E—Real Property Transactions

E1. Sale of a permanent easement to the Town of Smyrna, Tennessee, affecting approximately 0.08 acre of the Smyrna 161-kV Substation property (Tract No. XSMNSS-1H).

E2. Abandonment of easement rights affecting approximately 3.01 acres of the Gallatin-Portland-Franklin transmission line in Sumner County, Tennessee (Tract Nos. GPF-46-47-48, and GFI-1).

E3. Sale of a permanent industrial easement and four 30-year gas supply line easements to the United States Gypsum Company affecting approximately 5 acres of Guntersville Lake in Jackson County, Alabama, and Marion County, Tennessee (Tract Nos. XGR-7411E, -742P, -744P, and -745P).

E4. Nineteen-year commercial recreation lease to Randy C. Allen affecting 39.5 acres of TVA's Goat Island Recreation Area on Pickwick Lake in Tishomingo County, Mississippi (Tract No. XPR-458L).

Information Items

1. Approval for the sale of Tennessee Valley Authority Power Bonds.

2. Approval of new investment managers and proposed new Investment Management Agreements between the TVA Retirement System and MacKay-Shields Financial Corporation and CastleInternational Asset Management Limited.

3. Approval to file condemnation cases affecting Tract Nos. OM-1000TE and -10001TE in McCreary County, Kentucky.

4. Approval of back-up generation services for East Mississippi EPA to supply the Meridian Naval Air Station.

5. Approval of variable time of use rates for use in telecommunications pilot programs.

6. Approval to modify and extend coal Contract No. P-95P-07-148296 with Leslie Resources, Inc.

7. Grant of easement to the City of Benton, Kentucky, for a 6-inch natural gas pipeline in Marshall County, Kentucky.

8. Approval of decision denying Carolina Trout Corporation's request for a trout-rearing net-pen facility on Fontana Lake.

9. Approval of recommendations resulting from the 62nd Annual Wage Conference, 1997—Annual Trades and Labor Agreement wage rates.